VAMPIRELLA® vs. Lady Death™

the end

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THE STORY SO FAR

Nazi scientist Dr. Midwinter has finally caught up with Pantha and plans to barter her soul to almighty Death himself. Nothing comes cheap–especially immortal souls–and in exchange for Pantha's, Midwinter demands that Death's avatar, Lady Death, slaughter a good portion of the human populace, so that he may rule in a world of cruel, military heartlessness, and usher in a new age of evil.

The only thing that stands in their way–Vampirella! Along with her sidekick Dixie, Vampi executes an effort to avenge Midwinter for a past wrong, and is shocked to find herself head-to-head with the indestructible Lady Death. With everything stacked against her, Vampi is defeated with a mortal wound from the Spear of Destiny.

Suddenly transported to the 1960s, Vampirella must try to determine why and how she got there–and how she can return to the year 2000. With the help of her old cohort, the magician Pendragon, Vampi sets out to find the answers she seeks.

Meanwhile, Hollywood detective Jack Stone is on the hunt for a brutal killer whose *modus operandi* is unlike anything he's ever seen. His search only leads to more confusion. According to the evidence, nothing *human* could commit these crimes!

All paths lead to Pantha and her mystical scarab. A B-movie actress with a *very* active social life, Pantha has no idea that the jewel she wears around her neck contains supernatural powers. Not only is it capable of sending Vampirella to her rightful place and time–it also transforms Pantha herself into a violent beast without her knowledge.

But there are some out there that know the power of the Scarab–and will stop at nothing to get it. They're a group of satanic bikers called the White $kulls, and they've brought Pantha to a party with the promise of some 60s-style fun. But this is no regular "party"–it's actually part of their bizarre ritual, and they want Pantha to take part!

The Scarab's power alerts Vampi to the danger. But her rescue effort goes topsy-turvy when the Skulls manage to trap her too...until Detective Stone arrives on the scene. His quick thinking, and quicker shooting, manage to save the two lovelies from the clutches of evil...for now...

"EVIL IS A SIMPLE QUESTION OF MORAL RELATIVITY...

"IT ALL DEPENDS UPON OUR PERCEPTION OF TIME.

"EVEN THE MEMORIES OF HISTORY'S DARKEST ATROCITIES ARE ERASED BY THE INEVITABLE SPECTRE OF DEATH.

"BUT AS AN IMMORTAL, I HAVE TRANSCENDED DEATH.

"AND THE ARYAN MASTER RACE HAS ALWAYS EXISTED-- IN NEITZSCHE'S WORDS-- BEYOND GOOD AND EVIL.

NUREMBURG, APRIL 20TH, 2000:

"NOW, TIME'S ARROW COMES FULL CIRCLE-- HERE WHERE THE WORLD FIRST FELT OUR POWER!

ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF HITLER'S DEATH, THE WORLD WILL LEARN THAT HIS SACRIFICE WAS NOT IN VAIN--"

REALLY, MIDWINTER? YOUR LEADER'S *PUTRID SOUL* CURRIED *NO SPECIAL FAVOR* WITH DEATH.

THE *BANALITY* OF HIS EVIL IS HUMANITY'S *MOST COMMON*--AND *WORTHLESS* CURRENCY.

PERHAPS-- BUT *HITLER'S* SOUL WAS MERELY *HUMAN*...

"...BUT *I* NOW OFFER DEATH THE SOUL OF THE *IMMORTAL GODDESS, PANTHA*...

"SHE WILL *DIE* AT THE *STROKE OF MIDNIGHT.*

"THE *FIRST* OF *BILLIONS!*"

SEE--*DEATH HIMSELF* APPROACHES-- READY TO *ACCEPT* MY TRIBUTE...

KNEEL, CHILD, BEFORE THE *TRUE MASTER OF CREATION!*

I'M *DONE* KNEELING TO *ANYONE!*

YOU'LL HAVE TO *KILL* ME FIRST!

YOU'LL DIE *SOON ENOUGH,* CHILD.

BUT *FIRST,* YOU'LL *SUFFER!*

YOU'LL *GROVEL*--LIKE ALL YOUR MISERABLE SPECIES.

YOU'LL *BEG* FOR DEATH'S *MERCIFUL RELEASE!*

TRY *HOLDING YOUR BREATH,* BITCH...

IT'LL BE A COLD DAY IN *HELL* BEFORE YOU MAKE *ME* BEG!

"YOU WON'T SPEAK QUITE SO *GLIBLY* IN HELL...

"ONCE *I'VE* SHOWN YOU ITS *TRUE HORRORS!"*

HORROR?

I'LL SHOW *YOU* HORROR!

NEIN! IT...IT'S *IMPOSSIBLE!*

IT *CAN'T* BE!

VAMPIRELLA

YOU SOUND *DISAPPOINTED!*

WHO WERE YOU *EXPECTING?-- EVA BRAUN?*

MEIN GOTT, THE *SPEAR!* SHE'S GOT THE *SPEAR!*

SHE USED IT TO OPEN THE *NEXUS* --BUT *HOW?*

PULL YOURSELF *TOGETHER*, MIDWINTER!

THAT *RELIC* IS NO MATCH *FOR MY SWORD!*

THE SPEAR IS THE *MOST POWERFUL VOLKISCHE TALISMAN.*

THE WEAPON THAT PIERCED THE SIDE OF *CHRIST.*

WHOEVER CARRIES IT INTO BATTLE IS *INVINCIBLE.*

"NOT EVEN *DEATH* CAN DEFEAT *THEM!*"

WHATEVER *MAGIC* BROUGHT YOU BACK, VAMPIRELLA, IT *WILL NOT* SAVE YOU A *SECOND TIME!*

YOU HAD THE *ELEMENT OF SURPRISE* ON YOUR SIDE *LAST* TIME, LADY DEATH!

LET'S *SEE* HOW YOU MAKE OUT *WITHOUT* IT!

I HATE TO *LABOR THE POINT*...

BUT TO PUT IT *BLUNTLY*--

--*THIS* TIME *YOU* GET *SHAFTED!*

UHH, HOW...HOW IS IT *POSSIBLE?*

I AM THE *AVATAR OF DEATH*...YOU *CAN'T* DEFEAT *ME!*

I HAVE TO *ADMIT* IT, BUT THAT *NAZI TURD* WAS *RIGHT*--

--WHILE I'VE GOT *THIS* I CAN KICK *YOUR* BUTT...
...BUT *YOU* CAN'T SO MUCH AS *SCRATCH* ME!

"I WATCHED YOU *DIE!*"

"WHEN MY *BODY* DIED, MY *SOUL* WAS ASSIMILATED BY THE *NEXUS OF ALL THINGS.*

"AND WAS *REINCARNATED* WITHIN MY OWN BODY BACK IN 1969.

"WITH *PANTHA* AND *PENDRAGON'S* HELP I FOUND A WAY TO *RETURN* FROM THE PAST.

"A WAY TO *BEAT* DEATH.

"THE *SPEAR* ACTED LIKE A *BEACON* GUIDING *MY* SOUL *BACK* THROUGH THE NEXUS...

"ITS POWERS-- *COMBINED* WITH THOSE OF THE *SCARAB* --*HEALED MY WOUNDS.*

"IT RESTORED *MY* LIFE."

"AND IT HELPED ME SAVE *PANTHA'S!*

"BECAUSE SHE *UNDERSTOOD* MIDWINTER'S PLANS, SHE RISKED *HER LIFE, HER SOUL --EVERYTHING...*

"...TO LET HIM *STEAL* THE MEANS OF HIS *OWN DESTRUCTION!*

"THE SPEAR RE-OPENED THE NEXUS TO *GUIDE* ME DIRECTLY TO THE *SCARAB--"*

--AND *YOU*, MIDWINTER!

YOU'RE *FINISHED*--WITHOUT *PANTHA* YOU HAVE *NOTHING TO TRADE* WITH DEATH!

AND *THAT* MEANS *YOU'VE* HAD A *WASTED JOURNEY*, LD.

BECAUSE *TONIGHT'S HOLOCAUST* HAS JUST BEEN *CANCELLED*.

SO IT'S TIME *WE* CALLED IT *QUITS*.

IT'S *NOT* THAT *SIMPLE*.

I HAVE *YET* TO CLAIM THE SOUL OF AN *IMMORTAL*!

YOU SUMMONED ME HERE, MIDWINTER.

SO, *YOUR* SOUL IS NOW *FORFEIT* INSTEAD OF *PANTHA'S*!

YOU CAN'T HARM *ME*.

THE *SCARAB'S POWER* MAKES ME *INVULNERABLE* TO *YOU*!

IT MAY PROTECT YOU FROM *HER*, MIDWINTER.

BUT *NOT* FROM *ME*!

PERHAPS...

--BUT I STILL HAVE A *TRICK OR TWO* UP MY SLEEVE.

TOTENKOPF ONE TO *ADLER*. COME IN, *ADLER*--

TOTENKOPF ONE TO ADLER-- *ATTACK PLAN B!*

JAWOHL, TOTENKOPF!

YOU MAY HAVE THE *ADVANTAGE* OVER ME, VAMPIRELLA.

BUT MY *ELITE TROOPS* SHOULD *EVEN THE ODDS*.

AUF WIEDERSEHEN, FRAULEINS. I'D *LOVE* TO STAY, BUT...

HUH?

A SCARAB *AND* SWASTIKA ENSEMBLE?

REAL *BAD* TASTE!

CONSIDER YOURSELF *BUSTED* BY THE *STYLE POLICE!*

THIS WHOLE *NAZI RETRO CHIC SCENE?*

--IT'S *DEADER* THAN *DUNGAREES*, MAN!

STILL, I GOTTA *ADMIT* --YOU'VE GOT SOME *COOL GUNS!*

IS *THIS* WHAT EVERYONE'S *FIGHTING* OVER?

GLAD TO HAVE YOU BACK, VAMPI!

I THOUGHT I WAS GONNA HAVE TO *SAVE THE WORLD ALL BY MYSELF!*

YEAH --AS *IF!*

AMERICANS --WILL YOU *NEVER* LEARN--?

"--TO *KILL* YOUR ENEMY WHILE HE'S *DOWN*."

AAAHHHH!

DIXIE! NO!!!

PURE *KARMA*, VAMPIRELLA.

WHAT *GOES* AROUND--

"--*COMES* AROUND."

VAMPIRELLA, *STOP* HIM!

MIDWINTER'S *SOUL* IS FORFEITED TO DEATH.

BUT HE'S *ONLY* VULNERABLE *WITHOUT* THE *AMULET'S PROTECTION!*

SUH-SORRY ...VAMPI...

LUH-LOOKS... LIKE...I...I SCREWED UP...

I GUESS... YOU MUH-MUST ...BE...PRETTY PISSED ..AT...ME

I CAN'T LET DIXIE DIE LIKE THIS--YOU CAN STOP IT, LADY DEATH.

YOU GET TO CHOOSE WHO LIVES AND WHO DIES!

NO, VAMPIRELLA-- EVEN I CANNOT CHANGE THAT NOW.

THE CHILD FOUGHT BRAVELY AND DIED A WARRIOR'S DEATH.

BUT I CAN GUIDE AND PROTECT HER IN THE AFTERLIFE.

ETERNITY CAN BE HERS AT A PRICE--

OH, DIXIE... I'M SORRY... I'M SO SORRY...

--MIDWINTER'S SOUL!

I DON'T CARE ABOUT HIS *SOUL!*

BUT YOU'RE *WELCOME* TO IT--

--AND *WHATEVER'S LEFT* AFTER I'M *FINISHED!*

SO THE *SCARAB* WAS THE *SOURCE* OF YOUR IMMORTALITY...

...BUT *BLOOD* IS ITS TRUE *MEDIUM*...

AARGH!

...AND THAT'S WHAT VAMPIRES *TRULY FEED ON!*

AND YOU CALL THIS "PURE BLOOD"?!

I'VE NEVER TASTED ANYTHING SO VILE!

SO, MIDWINTER-- YOU STILL BELIEVE YOU CAN CHEAT DEATH?!

--THAT YOU CAN BETRAY ME?!

YOU HAVE MOCKED DEATH FOR THE LAST TIME.

NOW THE KILLING JOKE IS ON YOU!!

AARGH!

DO YOU *STILL* BELIEVE THAT YOU EXIST *BEYOND GOOD AND EVIL?*

YOU HAVE *NO CONCEPTION* OF WHAT EVIL *TRULY* IS...

...BUT AN *ETERNITY* OF *TORTURE* TO *LEARN.*

LADY DEATH, *PLEASE...*

...PLEASE... I'M *BEGGING* YOU.

PLEASE SAVE HER...

...TAKE *ME* INSTEAD.

YOU HAVE THWARTED DEATH *TWICE* THAT *I KNOW OF*-- PERHAPS HE FINDS THE *TASTE* OF YOUR SOUL *UNPALATABLE.*

BUT THIS IS THE *CHILD'S* TIME.

FAREWELL, VAMPIRELLA.

EPILOGUE

OH, GOD, DIXIE. CAN YOU EVER *FORGIVE* ME?

I'LL *NEVER* FORGIVE *MYSELF* FOR LETTING THIS *HAPPEN* TO YOU.

YOU DID *ALL* THAT *ANYBODY* COULD HAVE DONE.

THINK OF ALL THE *LIVES* YOU DID *SAVE*.

ALL THOSE *STRANGERS?*

THE *ONLY* ONE I EVER *LOVED* IS *DEAD!*

THAT'S *ALL* THAT MATTERS TO *ME!*

YOU *SEE?* THE *LIVING* WEEP *ONLY* FOR *THEMSELVES.*

VAMPIRELLA WAS A *GOOD FRIEND TO* ME...

I'VE HAD IT WITH *ALL* THIS *HERO CRAP!*

NOW ON, THE WORLD CAN GO TO *HELL* FOR ALL *I* CARE!

...MY *ONLY* FRIEND.

AND YOU *PROMISED* YOU'D LET ME SEE HER *ONE MORE TIME.*

HAVEN'T YOU SEEN *ENOUGH* NOW, DIXIE?

DON'T YOU FIND IT *PAINFUL?*

LIKE *YOU*, I'M *BEYOND* PAIN NOW.

I *PROMISED* VAMPIRELLA TO ACT AS YOUR *GUIDE* TO THE *NEXT PLANE...*

AND I *NEVER* BREAK A *VOW.*

YOU MAY BEYOND PAIN NOW, DIXIE--

--BUT *VAMPIRELLA* WILL EXPERIENCE *MORE THAN ENOUGH* FOR BOTH OF YOU FOR *SOME TIME* YET TO *COME.*

DIXIE RIP TATTOO

End

DORIAN C. 2000

MONTHLY 26

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